

SENATE BILL 9079

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2;  
Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 9; Title  
29; Title 33; Title 37; Title 49; Title 50; Title 56;  
Title 58; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to  
COVID-19.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and  
coronavirus disease 2019, including a mutation of the novel coronavirus, SARS-  
CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019;

(2) "Employee" means an individual employed by an employer;

(3) "Employer" means a private employer, this state, or a political  
subdivision of this state; and

(4) "Private employer" means an individual or legal entity that is required  
by federal law or regulations to report, for any purpose, remuneration paid to at  
least one (1) employee.

(b) An employer shall not discharge or terminate an employee solely for refusing  
to receive a vaccination against COVID-19.

(c) An employee discharged or terminated in violation of subsection (b) has a  
cause of action against the employer, and, if the employee prevails, is entitled to  
damages permitted by law and recovery of reasonable attorney fees and costs.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.